Implementation of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

1809. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana has become operational from 1st April, 2008;

(b) if so, what are special features thereof indicating the benefits likely to be accrued to BPL families;

(c) which are the States wherein this Yojana is likely to be implemented during the current year particularly in Rajasthan; and

(d) the details of Smart Cards so far issued by any State, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The special features of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana are as under:—

(i) Smart card based cashless health Insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- to a BPL family of five.

(ii) All pre-existing diseases to be covered.

(iii) Hospitalisation expenses, taking care of the most of the Illnesses with at least exclusions as possible.

(iv) Transportation cost of Rs. 100/- per visit with an overall limit of Rs. 1,000/- per annum.

(c) and (d) All States except Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have agreed to implement the scheme. 21 States and one UT Administration have started process to implement the scheme. Out of these 21 States, 13 States have commenced issuing smart cards to beneficiaries. A statement showing the number of smart cards issued in these states is enclosed.

Statement

Number of smart cards issued as on 15.12.2008

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Smart cards issued
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	124465
2.	Delhi	41662
3.	Gujarat	299151
4.	Haryana	237664
5.	Himachal Pradesh	13014

1	2	3
6.	Jharkhand	15651
7.	Kerala	42000
8.	Maharashtra	12413
9.	Punjab	36281
10.	Rajasthan	120123
11.	Tamil Nadu	18788
12.	Uttar Pradesh	137024
13.	Uttarakhand	506
	Total	1098742

Efforts to eliminate children as labour

1810. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making any efforts to eliminate the use of children as labour even after the adverse exposure in international media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against those who are using children as labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to elimination off child labour from the country. However, considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach is being followed, beginning with children working in hazardous occupations and processes and gradually covering children in non-hazardous occupations. The Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the scheme, the children withdrawn from work are enrolled in special schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities *etc*.

(c) and (d) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 Occupations and 65 Processes listed in the Schedule to the Act. Whoever violates the provisions of the Act is liable for punishment with imprisonment for term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/- but which may extend to Rs. 20,000/- or both.